

**AHMAD
ZEIDABADI
IRAN**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**ONE YEAR ON
FREE
THE PRISONERS
OF CONSCIENCE**

PLEASE HELP AHMAD ZEIDABADI

Ahmad Zeidabadi, aged about 45, a journalist for Roozonline, an online publication based in Belgium, and spokesperson for the Graduates' Association, which has been prominent in seeking greater human rights in Iran, is serving a six-year prison sentence in Reja'i Shahr prison, in Karaj, near Tehran. He is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association.

Ahmad Zeidabadi was arrested on 21 June 2009, shortly after mass protests erupted following the announcement that incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had won the disputed presidential election. He was held incommunicado in Evin Prison, Tehran, until his appearance on 8 August 2009 at the second session of a mass "show trial".

His wife, Mahdieh Mohammadi Gorgani, was only allowed to visit him in Evin Prison for the first time on 17 August and said that he was in an extremely bad physical and emotional state. She said that Ahmad Zeidabadi told her that he had



‘His interrogator told him: “We are ordered to crush you, and if you do not co-operate we can do anything we want with you and if you do not write the interrogation papers, we will force you to eat them”.’

Mahdieh Mohammadi Gorgani, wife of Ahmad Zeidabadi,
in an interview with Radio Farda, September 2009

been held in solitary confinement for 35 days after his arrest in a coffin-like cell only 1.5m long. He had apparently gone on hunger strike for 17 days until doctors convinced him to stop. His wife saw him again in mid-September, when he told her that he had been severely beaten during interrogation.

Ahmad Zeidabadi was sentenced in November 2009 to six years in prison and five years of internal exile in the city of Gonabad. He was also given a lifetime ban on all social and political activities. His sentence was upheld in January 2010. At the end of January 2010, he was transferred to Reja’i Shahr prison, where mostly non-political prisoners are held.

Ahmad Zeidabadi has been arrested several times previously for the peaceful expression of his opinions. Amnesty International campaigned for his release when he was detained in 2000 and 2001 in connection with articles he wrote.

ACT NOW

WRITE POLITELY WORDED LETTERS TO THE HEAD OF THE JUDICIARY:

- calling for Ahmad Zeidabadi to be released immediately and unconditionally as he is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression and association;
- urging the Iranian authorities to ensure that while imprisoned, he is granted access to his family, his lawyer and to adequate medical care;
- calling for an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the reports that Ahmad Zeidabadi was tortured and otherwise ill-treated and for anyone found responsible to be brought to justice promptly and fairly.

Send your letters to:

Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
Office of the Head of the Judiciary
Pasteur Street, Vali Asr Avenue, south of
Serah-e Jomhouri
Tehran, 1316814737
Islamic Republic of Iran

Salutation: Your Excellency

Email: info@dadiran.ir, bia.judi@yahoo.com

(in the subject line: FAO Ayatollah Larijani)

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

www.amnesty.org
May 2010
Index: MDE 13/042/2010